Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Folklife Center Launches Study of Italian-Americans in California

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., has announced it will survey contemporary Italian-American culture and traditions in San Pedro, Calif., a fishing community south of Los Angeles, and Gilroy, Calif., an agriculture and wine-making community in the Santa Clara valley south of San Francisco. These surveys are part of the center's major, two-year field documentation project—"Italian-Americans in the West"—and are undertaken as part of the Library's commemoration of the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary, the 500th anniversary of the Italian explorer's arrival in the New World.

Italian-American fishermen at San Pedro, Calif., wharf. Spring 1989. (Photo by David Taylor.)

The Columbus Quincentenary will be celebrated and studied in most of the nations of the New World, as well as in Italy, Spain, and other European countries. In the United States several Federal and state agencies and innumerable universities and cultural institutions have planned programs. The Library of Congress, with large and important collections on Hispanic and Western culture and New World exploration, is sponsoring several quincentenary projects.

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Folklife *(Cont. from p. 265)*
The Library's American Folklife Center has been asked by Congress to participate with a program that celebrates the American ethnic pluralism that has been one outcome (and on-going consequence) of the remarkable voyage of Columbus.

A central element of the center's program will be a major field documentation project focusing on the cultural traditions of Italian-Americans in the western United States. During July and September a research team consisting of four professional folklorists and one professional photographer will conduct fieldwork in two California locations where Italian-Americans have always played a major role: San Pedro and Gilroy. The researchers will interview local residents, take photographs, and otherwise document the Italian-American heritage by exploring a wide range of subjects that relate to how Italian-Americans have defined their identity as a cultural group in the past and maintain it in the present. These subjects are expected to include: community and family life, religious and social festivals and events, occupations, music, food customs, gardening, handicrafts, stories, and games. The construction, ornamentation, and use of houses and other buildings will also be considered. Fieldwork is taking place in San Pedro from July 16 to 31, and in Gilroy from September 5 to 19. The members of the research team are folklorists Douglas DeNatale, Russell Frank, Paola Tavarelli, and David Taylor, and photographer Ken Light.

During 1990, fieldwork will be conducted in several communities in other western states. While the final selection of these sites has not been made, communities in Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Washington are under consideration.

The plan to study Italians in the American West may come as a surprise to some. Most Americans associate Italian-American life, history, and culture with the urban East. But in the mid-19th century large numbers of Italian immigrants settled in California and other western states. Many of these immigrants appear to have come from northern Italy—Liguria and the Piedmont—as opposed to the more heavily southern admixture of the later immigration to the cities of the eastern United States. In fact, for many of them the port of embarkation for America may well have been Columbus's natal town of Genoa.

These Italian-Americans brought with them a number of cultural skills and arts—agricultural and fishing techniques, viticulture, stone masonry, and much more—that helped shape the cultural milieu of the West. In turn, they were deeply influenced as a group by other ethnic cultures and the emergent regional culture of the American West; an Italian-American ranch in the 20th century, for example, is profoundly influenced by the Californian Hispanic traditions of cattle and horse management.

The tape recorded interviews, photographs, and other documentary materials collected during the project will be permanently housed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where they will be available for use by students and scholars. It is anticipated that the American Folklife Center will use these data as the primary source material for a future book and a major exhibition focusing on Italian-Americans in the West.

For more information about the Italian-Americans in the West Project, contact John Alexander Williams or David Taylor at the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540; telephone (202) 707-6590.

Library, Bowdoin College To Preserve Rare Films of the Arctic

The Library of Congress and Bowdoin College have announced a cooperative agreement to preserve a rare and historically significant film collection depicting early 20th-century exploration of the eastern arctic.

The films, which were shot on the arctic voyages of the renowned Canadian explorer Robert Bartlett from 1926 to 1946, are part of an extensive collection of artifacts, films, and documents housed at the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. The films were donated to Bowdoin in 1978 by David C. Nutt of Etna, N.H. As a young man Mr. Nutt sailed on Bartlett's schooner, the Effie M. Morrissey, and befriended Reginald Wilcox, one of the cameramen whose films are part of the collection.

The films provide a vivid visual record of the native peoples of Labrador, Baffin and Ellesmere Islands, and Greenland. They feature Inuit traveling by dogsled and hunting from skin kayaks, villagers making and repairing implements, and

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Bruce Tapper, Editor

communities gathering for festivities. Some of the world's foremost arctic explorers appear in the historic footage, along with scenes of northern wildlife and wooden ships sailing through icy waters.

Under the terms of the agreement, announced July 20 by Robert Saudek, chief of the Library of Congress' Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, and Susan A. Kaplan, director of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, the Bartlett films will be transferred from deteriorating 35-millimeter nitrate stock to stable safety film by the Library of Congress' Motion Picture Preservation Laboratory.

As part of the joint agreement, Ms. Kaplan and the museum's curator, Gerald F. Bigelow, will help catalog the Library of Congress' collection of films made by Donald B. MacMillan, a leading American arctic explorer and one of Bartlett's contemporaries. These films complement the museum's own MacMillan film collection.

When the film transfer and cataloging projects are completed, the Library of Congress and Bowdoin holdings will constitute one of the world's largest collections of early motion pictures documenting the people and environments of the eastern arctic.

"The films are unique documents of a vanished era," commented Ms. Kaplan. "Through mutual cooperation, the Library of Congress and Bowdoin College are saving this internationally important record of the early arctic, and are making a valuable resource available to scholars, filmmakers, and native groups vitally interested in their cultural heritage."

Library Publishes Report on Manuscript Acquisitions

The study of 20th-century American politics and culture is the predominant theme of the 1987 issue of *Library of Congress Acquisitions:*

(Cont. on p. 268)

Children's Literature Center Observes Children's Book Day

Featured speaker Antonio Frasconi autographs a book for writer/illustrator Linda Shute.

The Children's Literature Center in the Library of Congress hosted the third annual celebration of International Children's Book Day on May 18. Internationally acclaimed graphic artist Antonio Frasconi was the featured speaker at the event, which was sponsored by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

In his talk, "Reflections of an Artist's Life," Antonio Frasconi described the influences on his art. Born in Buenos Aires to an Italian family and raised in Uruguay, he was exposed to a variety of cultures, communities, and languages. Mr. Frasconi said books were "always very precious and intimate"; he was introduced to works of classic literature through his fascination with the engravings of Gustave Doré. Copying Doré's work kindled a need to create his own images. Working as a printer's apprentice, he discovered the tools to realize this. Mr. Frasconi came to the United States in 1945 to study. Here he met and married fellow artist Leona Pierce. In the early 1950s he worked for magazines, including *Collier's* and *Fortune*, designed Christmas cards for the Museum of Modern Art, and published the first of his many books, *12 Fables of Aesop* (Museum of Modern Art, 1954).

Margaret K. McElderry, then of Harcourt, Brace & World, asked Mr. Frasconi to consider producing a book for children. He created a picture book in four languages entitled *See and Say* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1955). An innovative work, *See and Say* presents in brightly colored woodcuts familiar objects identified in English, Spanish, Italian, and French. Several other multilingual books followed, among them *The House that Jack Built* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964), *See Again, Say Again* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964), and Pablo Neruda's *Bestiary* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1965).

Slides of Mr. Frasconi's work illustrated the lecture, revealing a man whose artistic vision encompasses a contempt for injustice and oppression, a steadfast faith in human potential, and a contagious joy. "I am a journalist. I try to portray what a journalist sees, but I do it with pictures," he said.

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Children *(Cont. from p. 267)*

The Woodcuts of Antonio Frasconi, a film produced by the artist's son, Pablo, preceded the lecture. A keepsake program brochure was designed for the occasion by Mr. Frasconi.

Opening remarks were delivered by Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center. Martin Pope, president of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, paid tribute to Ezra Jack Keats, his childhood friend, best remembered for the Caldecott-award-winning book *The Snowy Day* (Viking Press, 1962).

International Children's Book Day is a project of the International Board on Books for Young People, held to commemorate the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen. The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation supports the Children's Literature Center's International Children's Book Day programs. Two previous celebrations featured Erik Blegvad and Leo Lionni.

—Kathy Woodrell

Manuscript *(Cont. from p. 267)*

Manuscript Division, 1987, recently published by the Library.

During 1987 the Manuscript Division acquired 18 new collections totaling nearly 125,000 items and added another 790,000 items to collections already in its custody.

Although the new acquisitions touch on all aspects of American history, most relate to organizations and individuals prominent during the 20th century. Among the collections described in the 60-page illustrated report are the papers of foreign correspondent Clarence K. Streit, Air Force officer Noel F. Parrish, civil rights lawyer Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., psychologist Kenneth B. Clark, industrial designer Raymond F. Loewy, and scientist Edward L. Bowles.

Clarence Streit was a foreign correspondent in the 1920s and 1930s who later founded the Atlantic Union, an organization promoting the democratic federation of the seven original members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Although Mr. Streit's goal was never realized, his ideas received enthusiastic support from Estes Kefauver, Grenville Clark, Clare Boothe Luce, John Foster Dulles, and other prominent politicians. His papers will prove useful to scholars interested in the League of Nations, the United Nations, and world affairs in the decades before and after World War II.

Covering about the same time period are the papers of Gen. Noel Parrish, the Air Force officer who commanded the World War II flight school for black pilots at Tuskegee Institute. Gen. Parrish's papers document the effort to integrate the American armed forces and chronicle the activities of both instructor and students during the Tuskegee experiment.

World War II is also a subject detailed in the papers of engineer Edward Bowles, one of the leading scientists of the 20th century, who was awarded a Presidential Medal of Merit for his research on microwave radar and his scientific contributions to the Allied war effort.

Postwar politics, especially regarding civil liberties, civil rights, and labor relations, are addressed in the papers of attorney Joseph Rauh and psychologist Kenneth Clark. Mr. Rauh represented, among others, the United Auto Workers, the United Steel Workers of America, and the United Mine Workers, and his files are rich sources of information on internal union disputes and the postwar history of the American labor movement. His legal files also document his years as general counsel to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and his role in shaping civil rights legislation in the 1950s and 1960s. Also significant are the files detailing Mr. Rauh's involvement in Democratic party politics and his defense of civil liberties during the McCarthy era.

Kenneth Clark similarly championed civil rights, and his papers reflect the important role he played in the legal challenges to segregated schools. Mr. Clark's research about the psychological effects of discrimination and segregation proved influential to the outcome of the series of cases collectively known as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.*

The other two collections described in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1987* are the papers of industrial designer Raymond Loewy and a journal of 19th-century naval officer Thomas Macdonough. Mr. Loewy designed everything from tractors and toasters to gas stations and railroads. His most notable projects include the 1937 Pennsylvania Railroad S-1 locomotive; the 1940 Lucky Strike package; the post-World War II Studebakers; logotypes for the Exxon, Nabisco, and Shell corporations; the Cornell safety car; the Russian Moskvitch; and the presidential aircraft Air Force One.

Commodore Thomas Macdonough's journal, kept while in command of the USF *Guerriere,* 1818–19, provides an interesting account of America's involvement in the Mediterranean during the first quarter of the 19th century. Commodore Macdonough is best known for his decisive defeat of the British fleet in the War of 1812, but his *Guerriere* journal describes a later period of his life that is not as well documented, including charges he faced for "alleged improper conduct" while in command of the *Guerriere.*

Although *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1987* describes only a few collections at length, others are mentioned in articles of a more general nature, and all of the acquisitions are listed in a classified table at the end of the report. The report also includes, for the first time, a bibliography of all Manuscript Division publications, including finding aids, registers, guides, and brochures.

Paperback copies of *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1987* are available free upon request from the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Washington, DC 20540.

STAFF NEWS

(Above) *At the Cairo office: Ahmad Ramadan (left), head, Acquisitions and Cataloging Section; Mr. Sittig; Mr. Jay; Nabil Iskander, supervisor, Shipping Section; and Georges Courogenis, chief librarian.*

(Below) *Observing the chute: Atiyeh Abdel Hamid (left), Maintenance; Mr. Courogenis; Hassan M. Hamza, shipper; Mr. Iskander; Mr. Sittig; and Mr. Jay.*

Cairo Field Office Welcomes William Sittig

William J. Sittig, director, Collections Development Office, visited the Library's field office in Cairo, Egypt, March 12–16. He conferred with field director Donald Jay and the staff on acquisitions matters, providing guidance on the selection of books and serials. These activities were aimed at achieving greater independence for the Cairo office in selection and cataloging.

During his visit, Mr. Sittig observed the method by which books destined for the Library of Congress and 35 participating libraries are prepared for transport—securely packed on the second story of the office's annex and slid down a specially built chute to a waiting van.

Cairo staff members: Farouk M. Ali (left), driver; Mr. Hamza; police guard; and Sayyed Abdul-Gawad, Acquisitions Section.

STAFF NEWS

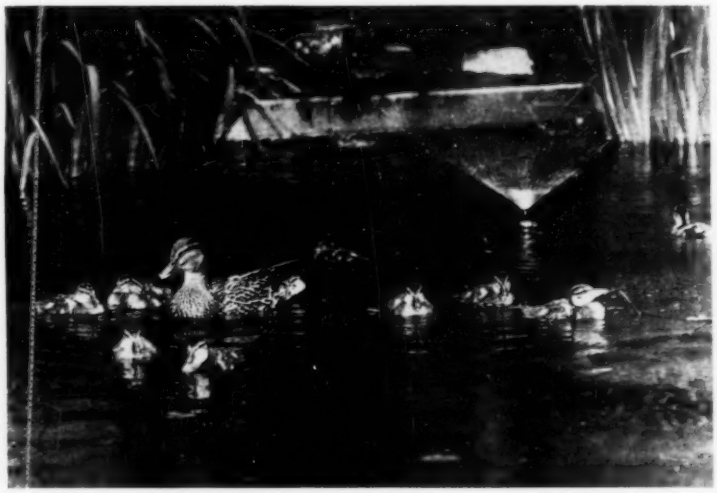
Online Users Group Gets Update on PreMARC File

The Online Users Group met last month to hear an update on the Library's plans for upgrading the PreMARC file.

Susan Vita, chief of the MARC Editorial Division (MARC Ed), opened the program with a brief description and history of PreMARC. Kay Guiles, senior descriptive cataloging specialist, Office for Descriptive Cataloging Policy, and Mark Ziomek, senior cataloger, Music Section, Special Materials Cataloging Division, described the recommendations and resource estimates for a multi-year project to edit the file, a project started last February by MARC Ed's newly formed PreMARC Unit.

PreMARC began with a proposal in 1977 by University Microfilms International and Carrollton Press to microfilm the Library of Congress shelflist and produce a microform product. The resulting publication, arranged in shelflist order, was not a commercial success. As a consequence, in 1979 Carrollton Press announced plans to supplement the microform shelflist with a print title index, generated from full MARC records and from partial non-MARC records converted into machine-readable form by Carrollton.

Under a 1980 agreement with the Library, raw machine-readable data provided by Carrollton was processed through the Library's format recognition software to add content designation (tags, indicators, and subfielding) to each record. About 4.2 million formatted records were loaded into the Library's PreMARC file, with copies supplied to Carrollton for commercial distribution under the trade name REMARC. Carrollton placed no limitations on internal Library use of the data, but the Library was enjoined from distributing more than 15,000 PreMarc records per year until the year 2005.



For the second year in a row, a family of ducks made their home in the pool in the Librarian's Courtyard outside the Whittall Pavilion. Hatched in early April, the ten ducklings had grown to almost full size by the end of June.

In 1983 Carrollton added 500,000 additional records to the file, placing no limitation on the Library's distribution of these records. The cost to the Library was about $1.9 million for 4.7 million machine-readable records.

Originally intended to supplement the Library's Main Catalog, PreMARC has become a primary file for accessing the Library's older collections. Presently, the file contains non-MARC entries for books, serials, maps, atlases, music, and sound recordings cataloged through 1983; the unclassified law collection; and filmstrips and motion pictures cataloged from 1952–1968.

There are, however, a considerable number of errors in PreMARC records which seriously affect retrieval on the file. In addition, Carrollton did not key about 90,000 records because the input source, their microform shelflist product, was illegible.

In 1988, Kay Guiles and Mark Ziomek were detailed to the MARC Editorial Division to work with MARC Ed staff members in determining the resources the Library would need to undertake a major revision of the PreMARC file. To evaluate the kinds and levels of activity required, about 20 strategy tests were performed on a sample of 284 source cards selected from the Official Catalog. At least five cards were included from each letter in the alphabet. Last September, the recommendations of the test team were discussed, endorsed, and amplified by the PreMARC Users Group, a committee of representatives from several Library departments. A three-pronged approach to upgrading the PreMARC file was approved:

(1) Initially, perform file maintenance at the record level, adding the 90,000 records from legible entries in the Library's Official Catalog and deleting approximately 38,000 readily identifiable duplicate records.

(2) In the short term, correct the most egregious errors, especially those affecting retrieval. Errors in content designation, call numbers, card numbers, and certain forms of headings can be identified by active searching and by problem reports forwarded to MARC Ed by PreMARC users (see "Reporting PreMARC Errors," below).

(3) Over the long term, upgrade each record by systematically comparing the PreMARC file entry and the Official Catalog source card, validating the data and enhancing it in some cases. MARC Ed will review the card number, call number, and copy number; the main entry, title, uniform title, edition statement, imprint, and collation; all added entries, including those for subjects and series; and the fixed fields for language, country of publication, dates, and style of cataloging. Content designation will be checked and subfield coding expanded to reflect current practice. Notes identifying non-book materials and contents notes will be added. Name headings will be validated but will not be changed to reflect AACR 2 form. Subject added entries will be validated and in general will reflect the forms found in the ninth edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings*. Custodial assignments used in the call number field will be normalized.

Provisions will be made for further enhancing the data in selected records. Records for rare materials, for example, will be candidates for additional upgrading by staff in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division after the MARC Ed upgrade is complete.

The Automated Systems Office put the PreMARC input/update application into operation in 1988, enabling staff to input new records and edit existing records on the PreMARC file. By February 1989, MARC Ed had established an experimental PreMARC Unit to begin record level file maintenance. To date, they have deleted approximately 25,600 duplicate records and added more than 250 records. Cleanup projects to correct problems reported by users have resulted in more than 19,400 changes. These error reports, requesting revisions to card numbers, call numbers, content designation, or frequently searched access points, are processed quickly. Maintenance codes are added to the PreMARC record whenever a record is reviewed for content designation or the shelflist is checked.

As online cataloging expands, MARC Ed staff members currently assigned to inputting catalog records will be able to devote more time to editing PreMARC. Mr. Guiles is preparing guidelines for checking PreMARC records against the Official Catalog source cards.

While the PreMARC file upgrade project is expected to continue for at least 16 years, the file as it currently exists, even with all its inconsistencies, provides the Library with much-needed machine-readable access to its older collections. When the project is completed the Library will finally have a retrospective machine-readable file fully adequate for both cataloging and reference purposes.

—Ardith Bausenbach

Reporting PreMARC Errors

To assist the MARC Editorial Division's PreMARC Unit in identifying errors in the PreMARC file, users are encouraged to submit error reports or annotated printouts to the PreMARC Unit, MARC Editorial Division, Processing Services. Refer questions to David Bowman, 707-1467.

Descriptive Cataloging Hosts Annual Length-of-Service Celebration

The Descriptive Cataloging Division held its third annual Length-of-Service Awards Celebration on May 31. Division staff members who received length-of-service awards between January 1988 and April 1989 were honored at a reception in the division conference room. In addition to the honorees, the reception was attended by their supervisors and Lucia J. Rather, director for cataloging; John D. Byrum, chief, Descriptive Cataloging; and Charles R. Fenly, assistant chief, Descriptive Cataloging.

Noting that their combined Federal service equaled 455 years, Mr. Byrum thanked the honorees for their significant contribution to public service. He invited each of the 20 honorees to say a few words about his or her experiences at the Library, prompting some interesting and often humorous reminiscences about people and events from the Library's past.

Recognized for their years of Federal service were: **40 years:** Elizabeth Hightower; **35 years:** Thangam Iyer; **30 years:** Mary Hooper and Florence Moeson; **25 years:** Labanya Borra, Nguyen Hoa, Purabi Schur, and Michael White; **20 years:** Sandra Hawkins, Oxana Horodecka, Leela Lulla, Barbara McCullough, Fei Shen, Catherine Shih, Mary Slayton, Edgar Snell, Leda Starks, and Rebecca Wagner; **10 years:** Denise Garrett and Najla Shahid.

The celebration planning committee was chaired by Elizabeth Hightower and included Suzanne Liggett, Beverly Montgomery, and Richard Ricard.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Wednesday, August 16

☐ "OPM Office of Labor Relations," Fred Archer, senior labor relations specialist, Office of Personnel Management (OPM). West Dining Room, 10:30 a.m. **For staff managers and supervisors.**

☐ "'Moriscos,' 'Mudéjares,' and 'Mozárabes' in Spain: Américo Castro's and Claudio Sánchez Albornoz' Perspectives," Everette Larson, Hispanic Division. Library of Congress Cultural Society. Dining Room A, 12 noon.

Thursday, August 17

☐ Nashville Bluegrass Band. American Folklife Center Outdoor Concert Series. Neptune Plaza, 12 noon.

☐ "20 Years Ago Today : A Woodstock Music and Cultural Retrospective," Sarah Rouse, Peter Vankevich, and Larry Miller lead discussion with the audience. LC professional Association (LCPA). Dining Room A, 12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, August 22

☐ "Robert Russa Moton: Tuskegee's Successor to Booker T. Washington," John Vernon, archivist, National Archives. LCPA. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

☐ "Delegating," a videotape presentation. Management Forum, LCPA. Room LM 654A, 12:10 p.m.

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